



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BOOKS.

Elementary Geometry, Plane and Solid. For use in High Schools and Academies. By Thomas F. Holgate, Professor of Applied Mathematics in Northwestern University. 8vo. Cloth Sides and Leather Back. xi + 440 pages. New York: The Macmillan Co.

This book differs from most geometries written within the last five years, in that it clings more closely to the well-beaten paths of traditional methods. Whether this is desirable or undesirable depends upon the view point of the teacher. As for myself, I prefer some of the more modern methods of presentation. As to statement of principles, definition of terms, demonstrations of theorems, no criticism can be offered. The author still holds, however, to what are so-called axioms, and in defining axioms gives the usual definition, viz: "An axiom is a statement the truth of which does not need to be demonstrated, and, in general, cannot be demonstrated." In introducing the subject of Axioms, the author says: "A simple statement or proposition which is readily admitted to be true as soon as its meaning is understood, is called an *axiom*."

It does not seem to me that this is the criterion for an axiom. An axiom proper is a statement which contains self-evidency in its terms alone. Thus, A is A , A is not B , a surface is not a solid, are examples of true axioms, that is, statements that are evident in themselves. The so-called axioms, as, for example, the whole of anything is equal to the sum of all its parts, are not evident in themselves. They are simply generalizations of particular empirical facts and can therefore never rise to the dignity of *absolute* certitude. Therefore, these so-called axioms should be called *assumptions*.

The book before us contains a large number of exercises and a short chapter on Plane Trigonometry is appended. B. F. F.

The Elements of Physics for use in High Schools. By Henry Crew, Ph. D., Professor of Physics in Northwestern University. Second Edition, Revised. 8vo. Cloth. xvi + 353 pages. Price, \$1.10. New York: The Macmillan Co.

In this book the author has treated the subject of Physics in a way that will commend it to every teacher of the subject. While mathematical formulæ are not used beyond the comprehension of those students that are familiar with algebra and geometry, yet sufficient mathematics is used to enable a clear and logical treatment of every subject discussed. It seems to me to be the best text-book on Physics for the use of High Schools that has yet appeared. B. F. F.

Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. By Elmer A. Lyman, Michigan State Normal School, and Edwin C. Goddard, University of Michigan. 8vo. Cloth. vii + 139 pages. Boston and Chicago: Allyn & Bacon.

The aim of the authors, we are told in the preface, is to treat the solution of triangles and analytical trigonometry adequately, the authors claiming that many American text-books on the subject treat the solution of triangles fully and the English texts elaborating analytical trigonometry. In addition to the usual matter treated in trigonometry we have in this book, the graphs of the trigonometric functions, the discussion of series, De Moivre's Theorem, and hyperbolic functions. The book is sold either with or without tables. B. F. F.